

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for operating a router, comprising:

2 establishing a first VLAN from a port connected to a shared network to a plurality of
3 user ports, the first VLAN receiving packets from the shared network and transferring them
4 to a designated user port, the first VLAN ~~rejecting~~unable to receive packets from ~~a~~the user
5 ports;

6 establishing a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN re-
7 ceiving packets from the user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared
8 network, the second VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~transfer of packets from one of the user
9 ports to other user ports, and the second VLAN ~~also rejecting~~unable to receive packets from
10 the shared network, in order to separate packet traffic of different users.

1 2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

2 dividing the plurality of user ports into groups of user ports, each group of user ports
3 assigned to a single designated user; and

4 establishing a third VLAN from ~~the plurality~~a first group of user ports, the third
5 VLAN receiving packets from the first group of user ports and transferring them to the port
6 connected to the shared network, the third VLAN able to transfer packets ~~to other among~~
7 user ports belonging to ~~a~~the first group of user ports, the third VLAN ~~preventing~~unable to
8 transfer of packets to other user ports belonging to a group different from the first group of
9 user ports, the third VLAN ~~rejecting~~unable to receive packets from the shared network.

1 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

2 means for establishing a first VLAN from a port connected to a shared network to a
3 plurality of user ports, the first VLAN receiving packets from the shared network and trans-
4 ferring them to a designated user port, the first VLAN ~~rejecting~~unable to receive packets
5 from ~~a~~the user ports;

means for establishing a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN receiving packets from the user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the second VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~ transfer packets ~~from one of the user ports~~ to other user ports, and the second VLAN ~~also rejecting~~ ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network, in order to separate packet traffic of different users.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 3, further comprising:

means for dividing the plurality of user ports into groups of user ports, each group of user ports assigned to a single designated user; and

means for establishing a third VLAN from ~~the plurality~~ a first group of user ports, the third VLAN receiving packets from the first group of user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the third VLAN able to transfer packets ~~to other~~ among ~~user ports belonging to a the~~ first group of user ports, the third VLAN ~~preventing~~ unable to transfer of packets to other user ports belonging to a group different from the first group of user ports, the third VLAN ~~rejecting~~ unable to receive packets from the shared network.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

a port connected to a shared network;

a plurality of user ports;

a first VLAN from the port connected to ~~a the~~ shared network to the plurality of user ports, the first VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets from the shared network and transferring them to a designated user port, the first VLAN to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a the~~ user ports;

a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN to receive ~~ing~~ packets from the user ports and transferring them to the port connected to the shared network, the second VLAN to prevent ~~unable to transfer of~~ packets ~~from one of the user ports~~ to other user ports, and the second VLAN also to reject ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared network, in order to separate packet traffic of different users.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 5, further comprising:

a third VLAN from ~~the plurality of a first group~~ user ports ~~of a~~, ~~the plurality of user~~
~~ports divided into groups of user ports, and each group of user ports assigned to a single des-~~
~~ignated user, the third VLAN to receive ing packets from the user ports and transfere ing~~
them to the port connected to the shared network, the third VLAN able to transfer packets to
~~other among user ports~~ belonging to ~~a~~the first group of user ports, the third VLAN ~~to prevent~~
~~unable to transfer of packets to other user ports~~ belonging to a group different from the first
group of user ports, the third VLAN ~~to reject~~~~unable to receive~~ packets from the shared net-
work.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

one or more promiscuous ports;

one or more isolated ports;

one or more community ports;

a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router
through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the
one or more isolated ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more community ports,
the primary VLAN ~~to reject~~ ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports
and ~~to reject~~ ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more community ports;

an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router
through an isolated port ~~of the one or more isolated ports~~ and to transfer the packets to the
one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN ~~to prevent~~ ~~unable to transfer of the pack-~~
~~ets from the isolated port~~ to another isolated port ~~of the one or more isolated ports~~, and the
isolated VLAN ~~to prevent~~ ~~unable to transfer of the packets from the isolated port to the one~~
~~or more a community ports~~, and the isolated VLAN ~~to reject~~ ~~unable to receive~~ packets from a
the one or more promiscuous ports; and

a community VLAN, the community VLAN to receive packets from outside of the
router at a community port ~~of the one or more community ports~~ and to transfer the packets to

19 | ~~the one or more~~ a promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to any other community
20 | ports, the community VLAN ~~to prevent~~ unable to transfer ~~of~~ packets to ~~a~~ the one or more iso-
21 | lated ports, the community VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ reject packets from the one or more
22 | promiscuous ports.

1 | 8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 7, further comprising:

2 | a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports connected to a shared net-
3 | work, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second
4 | user; and

5 | a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports connected to a local area network
6 | (LAN) assigned to the first user, and a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports
7 | connected to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the
8 | first user and the second user.

1 | 9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 7, further comprising:

2 | a plurality of sets of community ports; and

3 | a community VLAN for each set of community ports, a the community VLAN for a
4 | ~~designated-particular~~ set of community ports ~~unable to prevent~~ transfer packets to another set
5 | of community ports.

1 | 10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The router as in claim 7, further comprising:

2 | a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports connected to a shared net-
3 | work, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second
4 | user; and

5 | a first set of community ports of the one or more community ports connected to a lo-
6 | cal area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and a second set of community ports of the
7 | one or more community ports connected to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to
8 | separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

1 11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

2 one or more promiscuous ports;

3 one or more isolated ports;

4 a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router
5 through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the
6 one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to reject~~ receive packets from the one
7 or more isolated ports; and

8 an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router
9 through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and to transfer the packets to the
10 one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN to prevent ~~unable to transfer of the pack-~~
11 ets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the
12 isolated VLAN ~~unable to reject~~ receive packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

1 12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

2 one or more promiscuous ports;

3 one or more community ports;

4 a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router
5 through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the
6 one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to reject~~ receive packets from the one
7 or more isolated ports; and

8 a community VLAN, the community VLAN to receive packets from outside the
9 router at a community port of the one or more community ports and to transfer the packets to
10 the one or more a-promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to any other community ports
11 of the one or more community ports, the community VLAN ~~unable to reject~~ receive packets
12 from the one or more promiscuous ports.

1 13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

2 one or more promiscuous ports;

3 one or more other ports;
4 a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router
5 through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to a selected one of the
6 one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to~~ reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or
7 more other ports; and
8 a second VLAN, the second VLAN to receive packets from outside the router at the
9 one or more other ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the
10 second VLAN ~~unable to~~ receive ~~reject~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

1 14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The router as in claim 13, further comprising:
2 said second VLAN to transfer the packets to the one or more other ports.

1 15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:
2 one or more promiscuous ports;
3 one or more other ports;
4 a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the router
5 through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to the one or more
6 other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to~~ reject ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more other
7 ports; and
8 a second VLAN, the second VLAN to receive packets from outside the router at a one
9 or more other ports and to transfer the packets to a promiscuous port of the one or more pro-
10 miscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable to~~ receive ~~reject~~ packets from the one or more pro-
11 miscuous ports.

1 16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The router as in claim 15, further comprising:
2 the one or more other ports ~~is~~ are one or more ~~an~~ isolated ports.

1 17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The router as in claim 15, further comprising:
2 the one or more other ports ~~is~~ are one or more ~~a~~ community ports.

1 18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

2 establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

3 establishing one or more isolated ports;

4 establishing one or more community ports;

5 receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving the packets
6 from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the
7 packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the packets to the
8 one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~rejecting~~ unable-to-receive packets from
9 the one or more isolated ports and ~~unable-to-receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more
10 community ports;

11 receiving a-packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving the packets
12 from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and
13 transferring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN preventing
14 ~~unable-to-transfer~~ of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one or
15 more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable-to-preventing~~ transfer of the packets from
16 the isolated port to the one or more a-community ports, and the isolated VLAN rejecting un-
17 able-to-receive packets from ~~a the~~ one or more promiscuous ports; and

18 receiving a-packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiving packets
19 from outside of the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and
20 transferring the packets to the one or more a-promiscuous ports and transferring the packets
21 to any other community ports, the community VLAN preventing ~~unable-to-transfer~~ of packets
22 to a the one or more isolated ports, and the community VLAN rejecting ~~unable-to-receive~~
23 packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

1 19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

2 connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a shared net-
3 work, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second
4 user; and

connecting a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

establishing a plurality of sets of community ports; and
connecting a community VLAN for each set of community ports, ~~a the community~~
VLAN for a ~~designated particular set of community ports~~ unable to preventing transfer of
packets to another set of community ports.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

connecting a first set of community ports of the one or more community ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second set of community ports of the one or more community ports connected to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;
establishing one or more isolated ports;
receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to-rejecting~~ receive packets from the one or more isolated ports; and
receiving a-packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and transfer-

ring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN ~~unable to prevent-~~
~~ing transfer of the packets from the isolated port~~ to another isolated port ~~of the one or more~~
~~isolated ports~~, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or
more promiscuous ports.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;
establishing one or more community ports;
receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from
outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets
to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets
from the one or more community ports; and
receiving a-packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiving packets
from outside the router at a community port ~~of the one or more community ports~~ and trans-
ferring the packets to a ~~the one or more~~ promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to ~~any~~
other community ports ~~of the one or more community ports~~, the community VLAN ~~unable to~~
~~receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:

establishing one or more promiscuous ports;
establishing one or more other ports;
receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from
outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets
to a selected one of the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive-reject-~~
~~ing~~ packets from the one or more other ports; and
receiving a-packets by a second VLAN, the second VLAN receiving packets from
outside the router at ~~a-the~~ one or more other ports and transferring the packets to ~~a-the one or~~
~~more~~ promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one
or more promiscuous ports.

1 | 25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A method as in claim 24, further comprising:
2 | transferring the packets by the second VLAN to the one or more other ports.

1 | 26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for using a router, comprising:
2 | establishing one or more promiscuous ports;
3 | establishing one or more other ports;
4 | receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving packets from
5 | outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transferring the packets
6 | to the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from
7 | the one or more other ports; and
8 | receiving a-packets by a second VLAN, the second VLAN receiving packets from
9 | outside the router at a one or more other ports and transferring the packets to a promiscuous
10 | port of the one or more promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~
11 | packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

1 | 27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A method as in claim 26, further comprising:
2 | establishing the one or more other ports as one or more an-isolated ports.

1 | 28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A method as in claim 26, further comprising:
2 | establishing the one or more other ports as a-one or more community ports.

1 | 29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:
2 | means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;
3 | means for establishing one or more isolated ports;
4 | means for establishing one or more community ports;
5 | means for receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving the
6 | packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transfer-
7 | ring the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the pack-

ets to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~rejecting~~ ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports and ~~unable to receive~~ ~~rejecting~~ packets from the one or more community ports;

means for receiving a-packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving the packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports and transferring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN ~~pre-~~ ~~venting~~ ~~unable to transfer~~ ~~of~~ the packets ~~from the isolated port~~ to another isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~ transfer ~~of~~ the packets ~~from the isolated port~~ to the one or more a-community ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~rejecting~~ ~~unable to receive~~ packets from ~~a~~ the one or more promiscuous ports; and

means for receiving a-packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiving packets from outside of the router at a community port of the one or more community ports and transferring the packets to the one or more a-promiscuous ports and transferring the packets to ~~any~~ other community ports, the community VLAN ~~preventing~~ ~~unable to transfer~~ ~~of~~ packets to ~~a~~ the one or more isolated ports, and the community VLAN ~~rejecting~~ ~~unable to~~ ~~receive~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A router as in claim 29 further comprising:

means for connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of a second user; and

means for connecting a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports to a LAN assigned to the second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A router as in claim 29 further comprising:

means for establishing a plurality of sets of community ports; and

means for connecting a community VLAN for each set of community ports, ~~a~~ the
community VLAN for a designated-particular set of community ports ~~unable to preventing~~
transfer of packets to another set of community ports.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A router as in claim 29 further comprising:

means for connecting a promiscuous port of the one or more promiscuous ports to a
shared network, the shared network carrying packet traffic of a first user and packet traffic of
a second user; and

means for connecting a first set of community ports of the one or more community
ports to a local area network (LAN) assigned to the first user, and connecting a second set of
community ports of the one or more community ports connected to a LAN assigned to the
second user, in order to separate the packet traffic of the first user and the second user.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

means for establishing one or more isolated ports;

means for receiving ~~a~~-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving
packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transfer-
ring the packets to a selected one of the one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~un-~~
~~able to-rejecting~~ receive packets from the one or more isolated ports; and

means for receiving ~~a~~-packets by an isolated VLAN, the isolated VLAN receiving
packets from outside of the router through an isolated port of the one or more isolated ports
and transferring the packets to the one or more promiscuous ports, the isolated VLAN ~~unable~~
~~to-preventing~~ transfer of the packets from the isolated port to another isolated port of the one
or more isolated ports, and the isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the
one or more promiscuous ports.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;

3 means for establishing one or more community ports;
4 means for receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving
5 packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transfer-
6 ring the packets to the one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~
7 rejecting packets from the one or more community ports; and
8 means for receiving a-packets by a community VLAN, the community VLAN receiv-
9 ing packets from outside the router at a community port of the one or more community ports
10 and transferring the packets to ~~a the one or more promiscuous ports~~ and transferring the
11 packets to any other community ports of the one or more community ports, the community
12 VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports.

1 35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router, comprising:

2 means for establishing one or more promiscuous ports;
3 means for establishing one or more other ports;
4 means for receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN receiving
5 packets from outside of the router through the one or more promiscuous ports and transfer-
6 ring the packets to a selected one of the one or more other ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable~~
7 ~~to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or more other ports; and
8 means for receiving a-packets by a second VLAN, the second VLAN receiving pack-
9 ets from outside the router at ~~a the~~ one or more other ports and transferring the packets to a
10 the one or more promiscuous ports, the second VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets
11 from the one or more promiscuous ports.

1 36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A router as in claim 35, further comprising:

2 means for transferring the packets by the second VLAN to the one or more other
3 ports.

1 37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A router as in claim 35, further comprising:

2 means for establishing the one or more other ports as ~~an~~one or more isolated ports.

1 38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A router as in claim 35, further comprising:
2 means for establishing the one or more other ports ~~as one or more~~ a community ports.

1 39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a
2 shared network, comprising:

3 a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN to receive ing-packets from
4 the shared network through a promiscuous port and to transfer ring-the packets to a selected
5 one of a one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN to reject ~~unable to receive~~-packets
6 from the one or more isolated ports, a first local area network (LAN) of a first user connected
7 to a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and a second LAN of a second user
8 connected to a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports; and

9 a first isolated VLAN within the router, the first isolated VLAN to receive ing-pack-
10 ets through an isolated port connected to the first LAN and to transfer ring-the packets to the
11 promiscuous port, the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to prevent~~ transfer of the packets from the
12 isolated port connected to the first LAN to another isolated port, and the isolated VLAN ~~un-~~
13 ~~able to receive~~ rejecting packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

14 a second isolated VLAN within the router, the second isolated VLAN to receive ing
15 packets through an isolated port connected to the second LAN and to transfer ring-the pack-
16 ets to the promiscuous port, the ~~first-second~~ isolated VLAN ~~unable to prevent~~ transfer of the
17 packets from the isolated port connected to the second LAN to another isolated port, and the
18 second isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive to reject~~ packets from the promiscuous port.

1 40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method in a router for separating packet traffic ~~travel-~~
2 ~~ing~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

3 receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN receiv-
4 ing packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and transferring the packets
5 to a selected one of a one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ reject-
6 ing packets from the one or more isolated ports, a first local area network (LAN) of a first

7 user connected to a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and a second LAN of
8 a second user connected to a second isolated port of the one or more isolated ports; and

9 | receiving a-packets by a first isolated VLAN within the router, the first isolated
10 VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the first LAN and transferring
11 | the packets to the promiscuous port, the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~ transfer of
12 | the packets ~~from the isolated port connected to the first LAN~~ to another isolated port, and the
13 | ~~first~~ isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous
14 ports; and

15 | receiving a-packets by a second isolated VLAN within the router, the second isolated
16 VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the second LAN and transfer-
17 | ring the packets to the promiscuous port, the ~~first-second~~ isolated VLAN ~~unable to prevent-~~
18 | ~~ing-transfer of~~ the packets ~~from the isolated port connected to the second LAN~~ to another iso-
19 | lated port, and the ~~second~~ isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~-packets from the pro-
20 miscuous port.

1 | 41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a
2 shared network, comprising:

3 | means for receiving a-packets by a primary VLAN within the router, the primary
4 VLAN receiving packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and transfer-
5 | ring the packets to a selected one of a one or more isolated ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable~~
6 | ~~to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or more isolated ports, a first local area network
7 (LAN) of a first user connected to a first isolated port of the one or more isolated ports, and a
8 second LAN of a second user connected to a second isolated port of the one or more isolated
9 ports; and

10 | means for receiving a-packets by a first isolated VLAN within the router, the first iso-
11 | lated VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the first LAN and trans-
12 | ferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~
13 | transfer of the packets ~~from the isolated port connected to the first LAN~~ to another isolated

port, and the first isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive rejecting~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

means for receiving a-packets by a second isolated VLAN within the router, the second isolated VLAN receiving packets through an isolated port connected to the second LAN and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the first-second isolated VLAN ~~unable to preventing-transfer of~~ the packets ~~from the isolated port connected to the second LAN~~ to another isolated port, and the second isolated VLAN ~~unable to receive rejecting~~-packets from the promiscuous port.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~traveling on a shared network, comprising:

a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN ~~to receive ing~~ packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and ~~to transfer ring~~-the packets to a selected one of a one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to reject receive~~-packets from the one or more community ports, a first group of local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first group of community ports of the one or more community ports, and a second group of LANs of a second user connected to a second group of community ports of the one or more community ports;

a first community VLAN within the router, the first community VLAN ~~to receive ing~~ packets through the first group of community ports connected to the first group of LANs and ~~to transfer ring~~-the packets to the promiscuous port, the first community VLAN ~~unable to prevent transfer of~~ the packets ~~from the first group of community ports~~ to the second group of community ports, and the first community VLAN ~~unable to reject receive~~-packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

a second community VLAN within the router, the second community VLAN ~~to receive ing~~ packets through the second group of community ports connected to the second group of LANs and ~~to transfer ring~~-the packets to the promiscuous port, the second community VLAN ~~unable to prevent transfer of~~ the packets to the first group of community ports,

20 | and the second community VLAN ~~to reject~~ ~~unable to receive~~ packets from the promiscuous
21 | port.

1 | 43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for separating packet traffic ~~travelling~~ traveling
2 | on a shared network, comprising:

3 | receiving packets from the shared network by a primary VLAN within the router, the
4 | primary VLAN receiving packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and
5 | transferring the packets to a selected one of a one or more community ports, the primary
6 | VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ ~~rejecting~~ packets from the one or more community ports, a first
7 | group of local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first group of community
8 | ports of the one or more community ports, and a second group of LANs of a second user
9 | connected to a second group of community ports of the one or more community ports;

10 | receiving packets from a first group of community ports by a first community VLAN
11 | within the router, the first community VLAN receiving packets through the first group of
12 | community ports connected to the first group of LANs and transferring the packets to the
13 | promiscuous port, the first community VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~ transfer of the packets
14 | from the first group of community ports to the second group of community ports, and the
15 | first community VLAN ~~unable to receive~~ ~~rejecting~~ packets from the one or more promiscu-
16 | ous ports; and

17 | receiving packets from a second group of community ports by a second community
18 | VLAN within the router, the second community VLAN receiving packets through the second
19 | group of community ports connected to the second group of LANs and transferring the pack-
20 | ets to the promiscuous port, the second community VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~ transfer of
21 | the packets to the first group of community ports, and the second community VLAN ~~unable~~
22 | ~~rejecting~~ ~~to receive~~ packets from the promiscuous port.

1 | 44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A router to separate packet traffic ~~travelling~~ traveling on a
2 | shared network, comprising:

means for receiving packets from the shared network by a primary VLAN within the router, the primary VLAN receiving packets from the shared network through a promiscuous port and transferring the packets to a selected one of a one or more community ports, the primary VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or more community ports, a first group of local area network (LAN) of a first user connected to a first group of community ports of the one or more community ports, and a second group of LANs of a second user connected to a second group of community ports of the one or more community ports;

means for receiving packets from a first group of community ports by a first community VLAN within the router, the first community VLAN receiving packets through the first group of community ports connected to the first group of LANs and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the first community VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~ transfer of the packets from the first group of community ports to the second group of community ports, and the first community VLAN ~~unable to receive-rejecting~~ packets from the one or more promiscuous ports; and

means for receiving packets from a second group of community ports by a second community VLAN within the router, the second community VLAN receiving packets through the second group of community ports connected to the second group of LANs and transferring the packets to the promiscuous port, the second community VLAN ~~unable to preventing~~ transfer of the packets to the first group of community ports, and the second community VLAN ~~unable-rejecting to receive~~ packets from the promiscuous port.

45. (CANCELLED)

46. (CANCELLED)

47. (NEW) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for operating a router, the executable program instructions comprising program instructions configured to:

4 establish a first VLAN from a port connected to a shared network to a plurality of
5 user ports, the first VLAN to receive packets from the shared network and to transfer them to
6 one or more of the user ports, the first VLAN to reject any packets received from the user
7 ports;

8 establish a second VLAN from the plurality of user ports, the second VLAN to re-
9 ceive packets from the user ports and to transfer them to the port connected to the shared
10 network, the second VLAN to prevent transfer of packets from one of the user ports to other
11 user ports, and the second VLAN also to reject packets from the shared network, to thereby
12 separate packet traffic of different users.

1 47. (NEW) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for
2 operating a router, the executable program instructions comprising program instructions con-
3 figured to:

4 establish a primary VLAN, the primary VLAN to receive packets from outside of the
5 router through the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to one or more
6 community ports, the primary VLAN to reject packets received from the one or more com-
7 munity ports; and

8 establish a community VLAN, the community VLAN to receive packets from outside
9 the router on a community port of the one or more community ports and to transfer the pack-
10 ets to the one or more promiscuous ports and to transfer the packets to any other community
11 ports of the one or more community ports, the community VLAN rejecting packets received
12 from the one or more promiscuous ports.